



7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

<BENEFICIARY FULL NAME>  
<ADDRESS>  
<CITY STATE ZIP>

HICN <1234>  
September 2008

**Please keep this letter for your records.**

You currently get extra help paying for your Medicare drug plan costs. Starting January 1, 2009, you will no longer automatically qualify for this extra help. This means your costs for Medicare prescription drug coverage may increase. However, many people can continue to get extra help, even when they don't automatically qualify. To find out if you still qualify in 2009, please apply by completing the enclosed application and mailing it in the postage-paid envelope.

**Why won't I get extra help next year unless I apply and qualify?**

You won't automatically qualify for extra help next year for one of these reasons:

- You no longer qualify for Medicaid.
- You no longer get help from your state Medicaid program to pay your Medicare Part B premiums (belong to a Medicare Savings Program).
- You no longer get Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

In the coming months your situation may change so that you again meet one of the conditions above. If this happens, you will again automatically qualify for extra help. We will send you another letter on purple paper to let you know you qualify.

**How do I apply for extra help?**

You need to apply through Social Security or your State Medical Assistance (Medicaid) office. You can apply for extra help by filling out and mailing the application that came with this letter. You can also apply by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). To apply by telephone, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

**Don't delay.** Please apply as soon as possible to make sure that, if you qualify, you will continue to get extra help as of January 1, 2009.

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## **How can I still qualify?**

You may qualify for extra help if you meet the following income and resource limits:

- Your yearly income is limited to \$15,600 for an individual or \$21,000 for a married couple living together. Even if your annual income is higher, you still may qualify if you meet one of the following conditions:
  - You or your spouse support other family members who live with you.
  - You or your spouse have earnings from work.
  - You or your spouse live in Alaska or Hawaii.
- Your resources are limited to \$11,990 for an individual or \$23,970 for a married couple living together. Resources include your savings and stocks, but not your home or car.

**The above amounts are for 2008 and may increase in 2009. If your income and resources are slightly higher, you should still apply.**

## **Where can I get more information?**

If you have questions about filling out the application, visit Social Security at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call 1-800-772-1213. TTY users should call 1-800-325-0778.

If you have questions about this letter or Medicare prescription drug coverage, please do one of the following:

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Read your “Medicare & You” handbook.
- Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized health insurance counseling. See your “Medicare & You” handbook, or call 1-800-MEDICARE for their telephone number.

If you think you received this letter because of an error, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

**Para obtener una copia de esta aviso en español, llame GRATIS al 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Los usuarios de TTY deben llamar al 1-877-486-2048.**